

Public Chapter 215

SENATE BILL NO. 405

By Dixon, Harper

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1082

By Miller, Pruitt, John DeBerry

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, relative to public education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-211(a), is amended by adding the following as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

(7) (A) Overall student dropout rates organized by schools and local school systems, and

(B) Student dropout rates also organized by schools and local school systems, but subdivided by gender and race; and

(8) (A) Overall student suspension and expulsion rates organized by schools and local school systems, and

(B) Student suspension and expulsion rates also organized by schools and local school systems, but subdivided by gender and race.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

If, pursuant to Section 1(7) of this act, a local school system is reported to possess an average variance of five percent (5%) or more over a three (3) year period between its statewide student dropout rate and its systemwide African-American dropout rate, and if such local school system has an enrollment of African-American students in excess of one hundred (100), then the local school system may be required to develop a reasonable plan to reduce such variance to less than five percent (5%). A copy of such plan shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education for evaluation. On or before September 30, each year, the local school system shall also file with the Commissioner a progress report concerning implementation of the plan.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.